

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-03 MMO-04 VOE-00 SCA-01 /021 W

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R 271455Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1658

UNCLAS WINNIPEG 282

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, APER, CA

SUBJ: NIV WORKLOAD REPORTS FOR SUMMER 1976

1. TOTAL VISAS ISSUED FOR WEEK OF JULY 6 IS 284 VISAS.
REFUSED FOUR. LAST YEAR'S AVERAGE OF VISAS ISSUED AND
REFUSED FOR SAME PERIOD IS 211.

2. WHILE IT MAY SEEM EARLY TO REACH SUCH JUDGMENTS, AS
LONG AS EMBASSY AND DEPT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR REQUESTS
FOR OVERTIME AND EXTRA OUTSIDE STENO HELP, OUR PRESENT
STAFFING LEVEL SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. WITH ONE MORE
MINOR ASSISTANT, WE COULD HAVE THE OPTIMUM SITUATION.

3. AS YOU KNOW, WE NOW HAVE TWO U.S. OFFICERS, AND
THIS IS CERTAINLY ENOUGH FROM OCTOBER THROUGH APRIL.
HOWEVER IN SUMMER, WE DO HAVE AN INCREASINGLY LARGE
CONSULAR WORKLOAD -- NOT ONLY VISAS, BUT ALSO QUITE A
FEW ARRESTS, E.G., I AM VISITING THREE AMCITS AT
HEADINGLY PRISON TODAY, WILL SEE ONE IN PIGEON CREEK,
ONTARIO (CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST) LATER THIS WEEK.
ALSO, WE HAVE A LIFER IN THE CAN AT PRINCE ALBERT,
SASKATCHEWAN, WHO IS WAITING FOR A VISIT SOON.

THESE ARE ONLY A FEW EXAMPLES.

4. ALSO, AT THIS TIME OF YEAR WE HAVE AN AVERAGE OF
3 - 5 PHONE CALLS AT NIGHT FROM DISTRESSED AMERICANS.
NORMALLY, THESE SITUATIONS CAN BE HANDLED OVER THE
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PHONE, BUT THEY DO TAKE THEIR TOLL ON ONE'S SLEEPING

HABITS. FOR EXAMPLE, JACK HOWLEY SPENT 4 HOURS BEFORE AND AFTER MIDNIGHT DURING THE AIR STRIKE ARRANGING FOR MEDEVAC OF AN AMCIT WHO HAD A HEART ATTACK WHILE AT A FISHING CAMP NEAR URANIUM CITY. HAPPILY, IT WAS RESOLVED TO EVERYONE'S (INCLUDING AN INTERESTED CONGRESSMAN) SATISFACTION. ALTHOUGH OUR PHONE BILL REFLECTED ONE ASPECT OF THE COST OF SUCH RESPONSIVE SERVICE.

5. SO, WE NEED TO HAVE ONE (AND ON SOME DAYS TWO) CONSULAR OFFICERS ON THE SCENE AT ALL TIMES. IN ADDITION, I AM TRYING TO DO AS MUCH TRAVEL AND REPRESENTATIONAL WORK AS POSSIBLE EARLY ON TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS AND REPORT ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ECONOMIC MATTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN IGNORED IN THE RECENT PAST. AND THIS IS NO SMALL DISTRICT. THOSE THINGS THAT ARE IN WINNIPEG ARE LESS PROBLEMATICAL, AND THE REALLY INTERESTING TOPICS ARE IN THE FAR REACHES OF SASKATCHEWAN, THE OUTLYING AREAS OF MANITOBA AND DISTANT NORTHWEST ONTARIO. PLUS, THERE IS LESS PRODUCTIVE, BUT TERRIBLY IMPORTANT (ESPECIALLY DURING THE BICENTENNIAL) FLAG-CARRYING TASKS RANGING FROM THE CANADIAN NATIONAL MULE DERBY IN MAIMI, MANITOBA TO THE MORRIS STAMPEDE, TO THE UKRAINIAN AND ICELANDIC FESTIVALS AT DAUPHIN AND GIMLY (WHICH I'LL MISS) TO THE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS IN SIOUX NARROWS, ONTARIO (WHICH I'LL ATTEND ON AUGUST 2).

6. ALL THE FOREGOING SMOKE IS TO PREPARE YOU FOR WHAT I THINK IS A VERY SENSIBLE AND PRACTICAL PROPOSAL. TO WIT, ASSIGN A SINGLE JUNIOR CONSULAR OFFICER TDY TO WINNIPEG FOR THE SUMMER. HE/SHE COULD LEARN A LOT FROM JACK HOWLEY AND OUR SUPER STAFF ON THE CONSULAR SIDE, AND I WOULD BE HAPPY TO SHARE SOME OF THE FUN I'M HAVING IN ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND REPRESENTATIONAL WORK.

7. THE BEAUTY IS THAT IT WOULDN'T COST THAT MUCH. NO LANGUAGE TRAINING REQUIRED. WE COULD FIND A FURNISHED PAD FOR A SONG, AND IT WOULD BE THE BEST
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POSSIBLE PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR SOME YOUNG OFFICER WHO IS COOLING HIS/HER HEELS UNTIL LANGUAGE TRAINING COMMENCES IN AUGUST. WHILE WE WOULD OF COURSE LIKE TO HAVE SOMEONE NEXT YEAR FROM MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER, WE WOULD TAKE ANY ONE OR COMBINATION OF SEVERAL TO PITCH IN BETWEEN NOW AND THE SUMMER'S END.

8. WE CAN AND WILL MAKE IT WITHOUT THIS HELP, BUT
WE COULD DO A BETTER JOB WITH IT, AND I THINK IT WOULD BE
AN UNUSUALLY GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR A NEW FSO TO GET
SOME SUPER TRAINING.
HUTSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976WINNIP00282
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760289-0499
From: WINNIPEG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760715/aaaaanng.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JAN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <01 Apr 2004 by morefirh, INA>; RELEASED <06 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2005 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIV WORKLOAD REPORTS FOR SUMMER 1976
TAGS: CVIS, APER, CA
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006